

# Traffic Safety Facts

## Crash•Stats

DOT HS 810 596

A Brief Statistical Summary

July 2006

### 16-Year-Olds have Highest Fatal Crash Involvement Among Young Drivers

From 2000 through 2004, 16-year-old drivers had a higher involvement rate in fatal motor vehicle crashes than any other age among young drivers (age 16 through 20). These data are from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Previous reports based on FARS data have shown that young drivers as a group have the highest involvement rate in fatal crashes when compared to all other age groups (DOT HS 809 919).

Table 1 shows that in 2004 the involvement rate per 100,000 licensed drivers was highest (76.99) for 16-year-old drivers and lowest (54.21) for 20-year-old drivers, as they are in each of the four preceding years. Rates for 17- and 18-year-old drivers are close to each other but are lower than the rate for 16-year-olds. Also, between 2000 and 2004, the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes decreased for 16- and 17-year-olds, and remained almost the same for the other ages. The number of licensed drivers age 16, 17, and 18 declined from 2000 to 2004, whereas the number of licensed drivers age 19 and 20 remained almost the same. In all the years, the involvement rate in fatal crashes for drivers age 16 was the highest and lowest was for drivers age 20. In 2004, the involvement rate in fatal crashes of 16-year-old drivers was 1.4 times the rate of 20-year-old drivers.

Table 2 overleaf shows 16- to 20-year-old drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2004 by State and involvement rate per 100,000 licensed drivers by each age. As of January 2006, there are 44 States and the District of Columbia with graduated driver licensing (GDL) laws. The states with GDL laws are highlighted in Table 2.

Table 1

16- to 20-Year-Old Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes by Age, Licensed Drivers, Rate\* and Year

Driver Age, Drivers Involved, Licensed Drivers & Rate*		Calendar Year				
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
16	Drivers Involved	1,079	1,011	1,156	974	963
	Licensed Drivers	1,470,141	1,362,670	1,318,404	1,262,899	1,250,800
	Rate*	73.39	74.19	87.68	77.12	76.99
17	Drivers Involved	1,431	1,442	1,479	1,409	1,343
	Licensed Drivers	2,330,769	2,191,469	2,197,874	2,178,432	2,181,110
	Rate*	61.40	65.80	67.29	64.68	61.57
18	Drivers Involved	1,896	1,843	1,813	1,873	1,879
	Licensed Drivers	2,838,762	2,754,846	2,726,939	2,765,798	2,766,621
	Rate*	66.79	66.90	66.48	67.72	67.92
19	Drivers Involved	1,878	1,937	1,911	1,766	1,802
	Licensed Drivers	3,077,319	3,086,268	3,061,537	3,018,679	3,109,625
	Rate*	61.03	62.76	62.42	58.50	57.95
20	Drivers Involved	1,740	1,759	1,769	1,722	1,722
	Licensed Drivers	3,140,384	3,172,712	3,207,450	3,178,422	3,176,827
	Rate*	55.41	55.44	55.15	54.18	54.21

Source: NCSA, FARS 2000-2003 (Final), 2004 (ARF), Licensed Drivers – FHWA

\* Per 100,000 Licensed Drivers

Note: 15-year-old drivers were excluded from the analysis, since licensed driver data available is sparse.

For questions regarding the above reported data, contact Cherian Varghese, 202-366-1114. This issue of Crash•Stats and other general information on highway traffic safety may be accessed by Internet users at: [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/AvailInf.html](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/AvailInf.html)

Table 2

16- to 20-Year-Old Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes by State, Age and Rate\* - 2004

State	Driver Age									
	16		17		18		19		20	
	Drivers	Rate*	Drivers	Rate*	Drivers	Rate*	Drivers	Rate*	Drivers	Rate*
Alabama	37	80.24	46	89.02	36	64.63	51	86.06	61	99.69
Alaska	2	58.14	2	34.40	6	81.26	3	33.86	1	10.59
Arizona	25	115.00	37	101.53	42	87.13	45	82.70	53	94.28
Arkansas	18	96.09	22	87.78	31	103.80	34	101.88	23	66.50
California	54	54.26	103	52.95	189	65.14	178	50.59	169	45.84
Colorado	21	70.53	30	72.15	32	67.57	29	58.25	40	79.66
Connecticut	9	108.87	13	50.03	14	43.33	14	39.24	9	25.14
Delaware	9	245.37	7	91.78	10	121.91	4	44.07	6	63.38
Dist of Columbia	3	275.99	1	51.47	5	170.82	1	28.01	2	50.25
Florida	62	114.63	83	82.58	142	98.02	133	78.86	120	67.62
Georgia	36	90.24	43	68.03	80	103.09	73	82.25	67	74.99
Hawaii	3	109.45	6	96.76	6	65.13	12	105.89	4	31.79
Idaho	8	68.44	5	32.75	10	62.13	11	61.99	12	67.51
Illinois	43	53.90	37	32.44	50	39.16	49	36.59	54	40.49
Indiana	46	135.14	33	57.41	51	77.05	28	39.90	43	61.06
Iowa	15	54.71	15	51.77	13	42.38	14	39.61	13	37.17
Kansas	13	42.62	14	41.31	16	44.03	24	64.65	18	48.83
Kentucky	15	126.65	36	106.92	40	100.19	48	107.47	32	70.75
Louisiana	20	**	38	138.72	46	114.43	36	73.92	36	69.26
Maine	4	70.66	12	106.31	10	72.93	8	53.61	5	32.75
Maryland	18	93.17	21	52.20	17	35.26	25	48.72	20	38.61
Massachusetts	8	67.44	18	35.25	23	36.72	16	22.91	23	31.94
Michigan	29	50.52	51	57.08	51	47.10	55	44.90	44	35.04
Minnesota	24	66.71	23	48.12	28	51.22	35	63.78	18	35.91
Mississippi	23	94.76	25	92.59	32	104.87	46	131.98	48	136.99
Missouri	35	87.82	45	79.75	53	80.60	44	62.47	45	63.76
Montana	2	22.88	6	56.74	9	75.10	8	63.63	8	61.00
Nebraska	8	45.30	10	39.78	12	56.12	10	40.82	15	58.22
Nevada	5	63.09	10	75.53	9	49.94	17	82.84	12	58.31
New Hampshire	7	79.46	12	87.76	9	57.26	6	36.16	5	32.50
New Jersey	1	571.43	13	21.23	32	39.38	30	34.55	27	31.06
New Mexico	10	559.60	11	111.11	17	94.60	14	65.52	20	89.99
New York	11	32.99	57	55.48	68	50.33	54	35.23	61	37.57
North Carolina	42	433.48	53	145.87	70	94.38	76	86.45	65	72.14
North Dakota	1	15.85	3	41.45	6	70.78	1	10.73	0	0.00
Ohio	33	55.80	42	45.36	67	59.59	71	57.52	47	38.71
Oklahoma	29	91.34	15	39.66	43	101.80	37	88.07	36	85.75
Oregon	6	40.77	12	49.22	26	79.57	11	29.06	18	45.62
Pennsylvania	20	82.20	60	66.03	68	58.47	78	60.23	64	49.42
Rhode Island	2	--	5	80.03	4	43.29	1	9.20	5	44.20
South Carolina	17	44.72	25	58.25	37	78.78	43	87.05	35	70.21
South Dakota	3	34.67	4	42.57	6	60.10	4	38.86	8	75.93
Tennessee	32	69.46	38	72.42	64	106.87	44	66.98	51	76.81
Texas	67	72.62	97	70.10	157	75.25	161	64.29	163	62.96
Utah	12	49.32	11	35.95	12	35.69	8	22.91	10	27.15
Vermont	4	125.63	3	51.19	6	87.73	1	12.89	6	73.09
Virginia	23	96.57	36	65.62	39	59.80	43	57.54	30	41.83
Washington	13	113.49	8	19.31	27	47.95	19	27.15	32	42.68
West Virginia	7	50.04	10	61.72	18	97.63	17	92.01	12	65.89
Wisconsin	25	61.27	32	56.83	35	56.36	25	39.63	21	32.69
Wyoming	3	58.31	4	63.83	5	71.46	7	96.22	5	64.97
National	963	76.99	1,343	61.57	1,879	67.92	1,802	57.95	1,722	54.21
Puerto Rico	6	**	11	**	15	**	31	**	31	**

Source: NCSA, FARS 2004 (ARF), Licensed Drivers – FHWA

-States with GDL laws

\* Per 100,000 Licensed Drivers

\*\* Licensed driver data not available